TL3049-13

To Your Excellency,
The Prime Minister of Japan,
Ryutaro Hashimoto,
Bangkok

Respectfully,

On behalf of the twenty-one East Timorese youth who requested asylum at the Japanese Embassy in Jakarta on 12 November 1995, we convey our deepest respects to you and to all the members of the Japanese Cabinet. We hope that under your leadership, the Japanese people and nation will achieve progress, prosperity and peace.

The Asia-Europe Summit will take place in Bangkok in the beginning of March. The meeting will discuss a number of questions, including human rights. But this discussion will ~~be very~~ not be straightforward because the Asian states do not agree with the European countries regarding the concept and implementation of human rights. The Asian states hold the view that the implementation of human rights must reflect the specific culture of each country. This concept has never led to a solution to human rights violations in East Timor. If the Asian states continue to uphold this concept, they must be able to suggest a way of solving the question of East Timor.

We would like to point out that it was thanks to the concept of the universality of human rights that the peoples of Asia and other parts of the world achieved their independence. We are certain that the Japanese Government also supports this concept. It is on the basis of this standpoint that Japan has played an active rcle in the solution of several international problems. Japan's involvement in reaching a solution to the question of Cambodia is a concrete manifestation of this concept. Because of this, we would like to ask to the Japanese Government to raise the question of human rights violations in East Timor at the forthcoming meeting. In addition, Japan is a member of the United Nations and exerts considerable international influence. This is why we would like to ask you to use your influence:

1. To call upon the Indonesian Government to respect the resolutions of the United Nations on the question of East Timor.
2. To support the peace plan of the National Council of Maubere Resistance which was published in 1992.
3. To respect the Joint Statement issued at the end of the Intra-Timorese Dialogue in Austria last year.
4. To call upon the Indonesian Government to unconditionally release Xanana Gusmao and all other East Timorese political prisoners and to call upon the Indonesian Government to involve Xanana Gusmao and other representative East Timorese leaders at every stage in the process to reach a solution to the question of East Timor.
5. To call upon the Indonesian Government to put an end to the violation of human rights in East Timor and to create an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity in the territory.
6. To support the proposal made by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso for the establishment of a Permanent UN Human Rights Commission in East Timor.

We respectfully request your attention to these points and express our profound gratitude to you for this.

Lisbon, 27 February 1996

On behalf of the 21 East Timorese youths,

Alfredo Rodrigues